

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner required formal drawings. Formal drawings are being filed today under separate cover.

The minor claim informalities have been corrected without changing the scope of any claim.

The finding of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 18-19 and 21-22 is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 11, 18 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form with no change in their scope.

Claims 1-10, 12-17 and 20 have been rejected as being anticipated by the Crane reference and/or the Ribarich et al. reference.

Claim 1 has been combined with claim 6 and now recites "An electronic ballast control ... implemented as a single IC." See paragraph 26 for support. The cited references disclose the use of multiple IC's, but not the highly integrated solution provided by the present invention. Allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-6 and 7-10 is therefore requested.

For similar reasons, the rejection of claim 20 is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 recites "A ballast control IC, comprising [three specific elements]." The claim is directed unambiguously to "an IC" having the three recited elements. Neither of the references discloses such an IC. Even as described in the Office Action, the prior art requires a plurality of IC's to provide the functionality recited in claim 20. Therefore, allowance of claim 20 and its dependent claims 21 and 22 (already found allowable) is requested.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 11, namely the method step of "applying a digital oscillator control signal to a digital oscillator in the control, and D/A converting said oscillator control signal to an analog signal, whereby the oscillation frequency is related to the analog signal" Claim 12 is now allowable for at least the reasons claim 11 was found allowable.

New claims 23-25 depend from claim 1 and recite additional features of the invention. Claim 23 corresponds e.g. to paras. 11 and 32; claim 24 corresponds e.g. to paras. 25, 26 and 29; and claim 25 corresponds e.g. to paragraph 24. Entry and allowance are requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-25 is requested.

FACSIMILE CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile (703) 872-9306 to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on October 26, 2005:

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